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OFFICE—No. 104 King street, over Snow's, (formerly French's) Book Store.

U. S. CONGRESS.—In the Senate yesterday, the bill to amend the act to provide for the collection of taxes in "the insurrectionary districts," was reported back from the Judiciary Committee. Mr. Powell's resolution requiring Secretary Stanton to transmit to the Senate all orders issued from his Department, or by Generals in the army, to take possession of churches or houses, or other property belonging to Christian denominations, was rejected. The joint resolution to amend the Constitution so as to abolish slavery, came up in order, when Mr. Johnson, of Md., addressed the Senate at length in favor of the resolution. At the close of his speech the amendment offered by Mr. Davis, of Ky., providing that no negro, or person whose mother or grandmother was a negro, shall be a citizen of the United States, or be eligible to any civil or military office, or place of trust or profit, under the United States, was taken up and rejected by a vote of 5 yeas to 33 nays. An effort to put the bill on its final passage failed.

In the House of Representatives, a bill was introduced from the Committee on Roads and Canals, authorizing the construction of two bridges over the falls of the Ohio—at Louisville—to connect the railroads of Kentucky with those of Indiana and Illinois. The House went into Committee of the Whole on the National Bank bill, and after several amendments were agreed to, the Committee rose and reported the bill to the House. The discussion of the bill as amended was then resumed.—Mr. Steele, of New York, denounced the bill as a great stride towards the consolidation of Federal and State power in the hands of the Executive. The committee of ways and means was instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill imposing an additional duty on foreign wool.

On the 22d of March Gen. Banks issued a military order at New Orleans providing for the rudimental instruction of freed negroes in his department. The order constitutes a Board of Education to consist of three members, who are empowered to establish one or more common schools in every school district that may be defined by the Provost Marshal General; to purchase suitable plots and erect school houses upon them; to employ proper teachers; to provide books, stationery, and apparatus; to prescribe a course of study, and to levy a school tax upon the real and personal property within each school district.

James Randolph, company K, 158th Pennsylvania volunteers, and William Collins, company B., 69th New York volunteers, both connected with the army of the Potomac have been tried by court-martial upon the charge of desertion. They were found guilty and sentenced "to be shot to death with musketry." The sentences have been approved and will be carried into effect on Friday, the 15th instant.

It appears that the troubles in Christ Church, in this place, continue, as will be seen from the following, signed "Episcopalian No. 2," which appears in the "Virginia State Journal":

"As the difficulties in Christ Church have not terminated, as we, or at least a portion of us had hoped, but on the contrary assumed a more hostile aspect, and the citizens of Alexandria having in more than one instance shown their incapacity to govern themselves, I must express my ardent desire to see the Church turned over again to the Military Governor of the city, and closed altogether rather than made the theatre of such contentions as have been enacted therein within the past few months.

A meeting was held in this Church on Monday, 28th ult., for the purpose of electing Vestrymen for the ensuing year. After much wrangling and abuse, and the use of language and intrigue that would do credit to a bawdy house, two Vestrymen were declared elected, the remainder of the five being a tie vote.—This I know because I counted the votes on either side. On Monday, 4th instant, the congregation again met for the purpose of electing the five to constitute seven in all of the number of Vestrymen agreed upon, when the Chairman of the preceding meeting announced that a certain number (six) had already been elected, and but one more was necessary.—Through the assistance of some Presbyterians, whom the distinguished author of Hudebras, (Butler) will tell you are always in for a quarrel, and others, who have no interest in the Episcopal faith, or any other, or the Church, except to create contention, the report of the Chairman was adopted by the congregation promiscuously assembled, when the canons of the Church most expressly and emphatically declare that the old Vestry shall be judges of the election and the qualification of voters.—What is the result. One Church, two Vestry, no Rector, two congregations, each of which would but little more than fill one pew."

A petition has been presented to the U. S. Senate (and referred to the District Committee) from a large number of citizens of Washington, including many prominent physicians, asking an appropriation for cleaning and improving the Washington Canal.

The Radicals have elected their candidate for Mayor in St. Louis, Mo., after a sharp and close contest.

The town and county elections which took place in Ohio on Monday show general results in favor of the Republican candidates.

Rev. John Pierpont, who is seventy-nine years of age, and is yet in good health and in the perfect vigor of his mental faculties, has just completed a work of almost as great labor as Johnson's Dictionary. In November, 1861, he began and in March, 1864, he finished a Digest of the Decisions and Instructions of the U. S. Treasury Department to Collectors of Customs, contained in fifty four folio volumes, which he has reduced to one.

It is reported that four new paddle-steamers, built of steel and of great speed, are about to leave Liverpool to engage in running the blockade. They are named the Badger, Let Her B, Fox and Let Her Rip, and were built for the service.

Gold, in New York, yesterday, 167½.

A FRESHET.—Great fears are expressed that the continued rain storm of the past two days will cause an overflow of the canal and the Potomac river. Yesterday the water in the canal was level with its banks. The Potomac, swollen by its mountain tributaries, is rapidly rising, and a freshet is momentarily expected.—At Georgetown the merchants have made arrangements for the immediate removal of their stock of goods, should they be visited by such a calamity. The lumbermen have "banked" their timber, and, unless the current is unusually strong, do not fear any loss. The effect upon the fisheries, too, will be disastrous, as the muddy current keeps the shad and herring in deep water.—[Wash. Chron.]

A dispatch from St. Louis states that Alexandria (La.) advices to March 27th say that General Franklin's main body, have reached there, meeting no opposition. The country through which it passed is deserted by both whites and male blacks, they having gone to Texas. The advance column of the Federal force under General A. J. Smith left Alexandria on the 27th. It was expected that Shreveport would fall without resistance.—General Harrison's command is reported to be moving toward Shreveport. A report is in circulation that the Confederates are taking up the old line on the Big Black and Yazoo Rivers. It is reported that the forage train from Atesville, Arkansas, under Captain Majors, was captured last week by Col. Freeman's guerrillas.

The plantations seized by the Federal authorities in Concordia and Teusas parishes, Louisiana, and leased to Unionists, have been seriously harassed by the Confederates. Every plantation they have visited—and the number includes nearly all that have been brought under Federal control in those districts—has been stripped of the mules and horses necessary for carrying on the work. In some instances the lessees themselves have been captured, and despoiled of their valuables. In the Washita district, also, all the farm stock, together with the goods intended for the negroes, has been taken and appropriated.

The report made in the U. S. House of Representative by Mr. Ward, from the Committee on Commerce, on the subject of the reciprocity treaty, recommends the abrogation of the treaty according to its terms—that is, twelve months after the ten years to which it is limited to have force and effect—unless in the meantime another convention shall be entered into which shall be truly reciprocal in its advantages to the Governments and people of the United States and Great Britain.

The following appears in the Washington Star:—"Tadd Lincoln, the sprightly, intelligent little fellow, who is so great a favorite with all visitors at the White House, has fitted up room No. 33 of the Presidential Mansion as a miniature theatre, in which manager Tadd gives theatrical performances once or twice a week, his company consisting of members of the Bucktail regiment now doing duty in the vicinity of the White House."